



Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management

Welcome Greeting by

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NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

**INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CATASTROPHE RISK MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN UNDERSTANDING,
COMMUNICATING AND MANAGING CATASTROPHE RISK
On the Occasion of the Launch of the Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management**

Thursday 21 January 2010, 9:00 am
Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore

Good morning

Guest of Honour, Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat

President, Nanyang Technological University, Dr Su Guaning

Provost, Nanyang Technological University, Prof Bertil Andersson

Chairman of the Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management (ICRM) and Member of the NTU Board of Trustees, Professor Hareesh Shah

Distinguished Speakers, Delegates and Guests

Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), I extend our warmest greetings, especially to those of you from overseas, a warm welcome to Singapore. It is our privilege to have over 130 of you from Australia, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, USA and of course from Singapore. Thank you for joining us at this Inaugural International Symposium on Catastrophe Risk Management, and the launch of NTU's Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management (ICRM).

The devastating earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday in last week has caused massive property and life losses. This is another evidence shows that there is a need for a new multi-disciplinary approach towards understanding disasters and developing multi-faceted strategies to mitigate their effects.

This Symposium brings together the world's leading experts in catastrophe risk spanning the academia, industry and government. Not only does it provide a platform for the speakers and delegates to share and exchange information on catastrophe risk management, it is also a springboard for deepening current efforts in catastrophe risk management. The discussions at this Symposium will undoubtedly raise public and private awareness and understanding of catastrophe risks and their

potential impacts, stimulate new ideas, develop novel multi-faceted strategies, and investigate policy implications leading to innovative Public-Private Partnerships in managing and mitigating catastrophe risk. This is indeed the theme of this Symposium.

The vision of ICRM is to be Asia's leading research institute in catastrophe risk. Leveraging off the discussions taking place at this Symposium, ICRM will embark on the state-of-the-art multidisciplinary research that will lead to dramatically better understanding, communicating and managing of major disasters, both natural and non-traditional, and thereby provide major positive impacts on the society.

The ICRM vision is part of NTU's drive to be a research-intensive world's leading university addressing key global challenges affecting humanity and society. I thank you for sharing our vision for ICRM by being present at today's launch. We look forward to your collaboration as we embark on our efforts in this new and challenging venture.

Finally, I wish all of you a most rewarding Symposium and a wonderful time in Singapore.

Thank you.